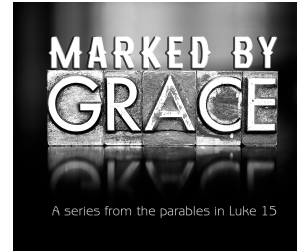


Further Notes:

Point I- The Sheep

Point II-The Search

Point III-The Shepherd



Dan Wilvers- January 8th, 2017
Part 1

God Welcomes Repentant Sinners Parables from Luke 15

Luke 15:1–10

¹ Now the tax collectors and “sinners” were all gathering around to hear him. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” ³ Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴ “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent. ⁸ “Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ ¹⁰ In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

This is God’s Word

I. The Sheep- Meaning of this metaphor:

1. This teaches us that like sheep, we need to be rescued.

“All of us, like sheep have gone astray. We have all turned to our own way.”
Isaiah 53:6

2. Also teaches us how *thoroughly* they need to be rescued.

Do you know what that means? A sheep can contribute nothing to its salvation.

II. The Search

“Now the tax collectors and ‘sinners’ were all gathering around to hear him. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, ‘This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.’” Luke 15:1,2

The Pharisees and teachers of the law are absolutely dumbfounded.

Do you know why? They see Jesus Christ seeking to build a faith community with these people in it. Therefore, it’s Jesus’ effort to create a new kind of community that brings up this huge objection.

“You were dead in your trespasses and sins, and you’ve been made *alive* in Jesus Christ. For it’s by grace you’ve been saved and that not of yourselves. It’s a gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” Ephesians 2:8,9

“We’re all like living stones that are being fitted together to build a beautiful temple in which God’s Spirit will dwell.” Ephesians 2:21,22

On the one hand it’s a community that, first of all, *keeps you from looking down your nose at the people outside.*

But on the other hand it’s a community that creates a bond unlike any other bond with the people who have experienced the life and death of repentance and faith, and the experience of grace and the gospel.

But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. Philippians 3:20

III. The Shepherd

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. 12 A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don’t belong to him and he isn’t their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. 13 The hired hand runs away because he’s working only for the money and doesn’t really care about the sheep. 14 “I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, 15 just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep. John 10:11-15

It’s our job to realize in Christian community two key attributes:

1. Commitment to harmony and unity amidst diversity.

And they sang a new song with these words: “You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals and open it. For you were slaughtered, and your blood has ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. Revelation 5:9

2. It’s also a place where sinners are free to admit they’re sinners.

“Confess your faults to one another and heal each other.” James 5:16

Dietrich Bonhoeffer: “Religiosity and morality permits no one to be a sinner. Everyone must conceal his sin from him or herself, and from others. But it’s the grace of the gospel which is so hard for the religious to understand.

The grace of the gospel confronts us with the truth and says, ‘You are a sinner, you are a great desperate sinner. Now come, as the sinner you are, to God, who loves you. He doesn’t want anything from you. He doesn’t want a sacrifice, a work; he wants you alone.

This message is liberation through truth. The mask you have to wear before everyone else will do you no good before him or before your brothers and sisters. Confess your sins to one another. Get the freedom of being sinners before one another. Confess your sins to each other, accept one another, and be healed.”